

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Process for high speed metal strip electrotinning of a moving strip comprising:

moving the strip vertically downwardly between a first pair of tin anodes facing the moving strip and then moving the strip vertically upwardly between a second pair of tin anodes facing the moving strip,

plating the moving strip by anodically dissolving tin anodes facing the strip into an electroplating solution, and depositing anodically dissolved tin from the tin anodes on at least part of the strip acting as a cathode,

wherein each anode comprises an anode basket having a front wall facing a side of the moving strip and the tin of the tin anodes is supplied to the electroplating solution in the form of tin pellets held in each said anode basket,

wherein each anode has a top and a bottom and each anode front wall is closer to the strip it faces at the bottom than at the top;

wherein elongated edge portions of the wall of the tin anodes elongated generally parallel to the direction of movement of the facing moving strip are masked out using adjustable masking means comprising elongated moveable edge masks elongated generally parallel to the direction of movement of the facing moving strip, the adjustable masking means controlled and guided dependent on strip width and/or tin coating thickness distribution,

wherein the elongated edge portions of the wall of the tin anodes are elongated substantially vertically and the elongated moveable edge masks are elongated substantially vertically.

2. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the masking means comprise a shutter or blind.

3. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the tin pellets are electrically contacted via a current collector made of a material with a low electrical resistance allowing for good electrical contact with the tin pellets and being electrochemically inert in the electrolyte.

4. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 3, wherein the anode basket is the current collector.

5. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein an automated supply system is provided to add the tin pellets to the anode basket.

6. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein [[the]] a transverse overlap of [[the]] a respective said edge mask and the strip has a value in a range [[ranges]] from 30 to 60 mm.

7. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the high speed metal strip electrotinning occurs along a plating line and wherein the edge masks are operated from a distance from the plating line to move the edge masks [[move]] to adjust [[lateral]] transverse overlap of the edge mask and strip from a distance from the plating line.

8. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein a remainder of space, on the front wall, between the moveable edge masks is open to directly oppose the moving strip.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the longitudinal axis of the moving strip facing the front wall does not oppose the moveable edge masks.